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**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR APPLYING
QUALITY OF SERVICE POLICIES
TO INTERNET PROTOCOL SECURITY
TO AVOID BANDWIDTH LIMITATIONS
ON A COMPUTER NETWORK**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

15 A system and a method for managing network packets by applying quality of service (QoS) policies to internet protocol security (IPsec) on a virtual private computer (VPN) to avoid bandwidth limitations. The present invention allows the same QoS policy model (that gives preferential treatment to high-priority network packets) to be used by QoS programs to direct the flow of network packets over the network and to be used by IPsec programs for the cryptographic processing (encryption/decryption) of network
20 packets. The present invention allows high-priority packets to receive preferential treatment when travelling over the network and when being encrypted and decrypted. In general, the system of the present invention includes a system for applying QoS policies to IPsec programs, and includes an IPsec module that encrypts and decrypts network packets, a QoS module that directs the flow of network packets over the network, and a
25 QoS policy module that provides a policy model containing rules and criteria dictating the order in which packets should be processed. The method of the present invention uses the above system and includes method of managing network packets on a computer network by applying QoS policy to IPsec programs.